

House (Tract #11142)  
.8 miles north of road from Brownington,  
3.6 miles east of Brownington  
Deepwater Vicinity  
Henry County  
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1232

HABS,  
MO,  
42-DEEP.V,  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS...

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MO-1232

## HOUSE (Tract #11142)

Location: 0.8 miles north of road that runs east from Brownington, 3.6 miles east of Brownington, approximately 7 miles east of Deepwater, Deepwater vicinity, Henry County, Missouri.

USGS Gaines Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 15.441880.4233820.

Present Owner: United States Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District.

Present Use: Vacant.

Significance: Originally a one-room shack, this house has an addition constructed of pressed metal, formerly a ceiling - a remarkable example of reuse of building materials.

PART I. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

## A. General Statement:

Condition of fabric: Fair: The house has been vacant for many years.

## B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This one story L-shaped house has a three-bay front, 36' wide, by 15' deep with an 8' deep porch.
2. Foundations: Stone foundation under original one room portion. Under the front porch and one-room addition to west, the wood is set directly on grade.
3. Wall construction: Salvaged metal panels over cardboard were placed on top of board and batten siding on the original room. Salvaged pressed metal and cardboard were placed over balloon framing on the one-room addition.
4. Structural system, framing: Balloon framing.
5. Porch: Screened porch with dirt floor in front of original room.

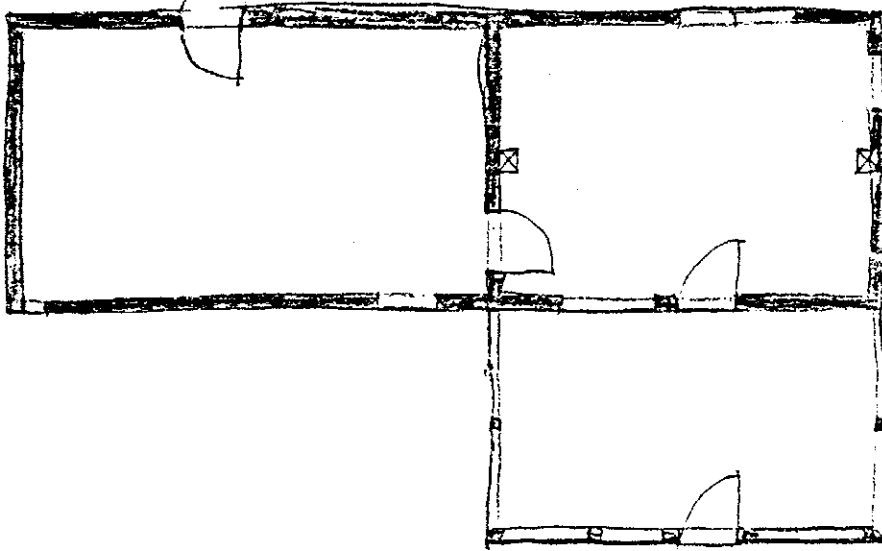
6. Chimneys: Two interior brick stove chimneys, one at the center of each end wall of the original room.
7. Openings: Doors are gone. The windows have one-over-one lights and double hung wood sashes.
8. Roof: The roof over the original room is a steep gable roof with a shed roof over the screened porch. The gable roof over the west addition has a much shallower slope than the original roof. The roof is covered with corrugated sheet metal panels.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The house has three rooms in an L-shaped plan. The south room is a screened porch. North of that is the original room, and to the west of that, a one-room addition.
2. Flooring: Linoleum over wood flooring.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster on wood lath.

D. Site: The house faces south in woods adjacent to a private dirt road.

Prepared by William Brookover  
Project Supervisor  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
Summer 1977



FLOOR PLAN BAKER HOUSE #11142

Prepared by William Brookover  
Project Supervisor  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
Summer 1977

PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Truman Reservoir Project was funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, in compliance with Executive Order 11593 as a mitigative effort in the construction of the Harry S Truman Dam and Reservoir, in the summer of 1977. William Brookover (Columbia University), supervisor: Michael Connor (University of Virginia), team foreman: Gary Baker (Catholic University), Edwin Daniel (Mississippi State), and Gary Statkus (University of Illinois), student architects: Paul Weed (Columbia University), architectural historian.

Addendum to  
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Deepwater vicinity  
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HABS No. MO-1232

HABS  
MO,  
42-DEEPV  
1-

PHOTOGRAPH

WRITTEN HISTORICAL DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HOUSE (Tract #11142)

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HABS  
MO  
42-DEEP.  
1-

Deepwater vicinity, Henry County, Missouri

Owner: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Occupant: Vacant

Use: Vacant

Statement of significance:

Originally a one room "Ozark shack," the somewhat haphazard growth of this house pays tribute to an inventive and economical response to the need for shelter: with little or no concern for adequate or proper construction techniques, the owner built with materials available to him at the moment - in this case, salvage and scrap metal.

A. PHYSICAL HISTORY

1. Date of erection: circa 1922

Baker received title to the land in 1922. Mrs. Dody, who grew-up on the neighboring farm, thought it had been built around 1918-22. Mrs. Greenwell remarked that Frank Baker "lived in a hut," which would be one way to describe this house.

3. Original and subsequent owners:

SE $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 14 Township 40N Range 25W

Frank Baker received title to the tract in 1922 (237:172). Michael Devine had purchased the tract 10 May 1884 (40:620) and a complicated series of deeds of trust between 1885 and 1902 total \$3632. Devine seems to have lost the land to Baker, who already owned the S $\frac{1}{2}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the section. Baker's son, Warren, received title in 1961 (376:519).

4. Builder or contractor, suppliers:

Exterior walls are constructed of salvage metal.

5. and 6. Original plan, alterations and additions:

The house was originally a one-room "Ozark cabin": a

board and batten shack on a stone foundation. At some point a second room was added to the West of the original house, a porch was built and screend-in, and the whole was sided with salvaged stamped metal ceilings. The roof is of corrugated sheet metal panels.

7. Historic events and persons:

The Bakers had a local reputation of being a family of eccentrics. The following recollections of them have no place in a permanent archive, but I can't resist telling them here.

Frank Baker was "a good horse doctor. Unfortunately, he also smelled like one." He was always seen in a voluminous black coat with large pockets from which he would often produce candy to offer to the local children. Even during the depression years, few of the recipients of this largesse dared to eat it, covered as it was with lint and whatever. Mrs. Greenwell, however, once had the temerity to eat a piece and it was noted that she is still alive. She also recalled a time she had to go to "his hut" to fetch him ~~to~~ to an ailing calf. Her one recollection of the interior was that there was a piece of salt pork hanging over the stove, always in readiness to grease the pans.

Frank Baker's son, Warren, lived in this two room house with his family of eight. Everyone knew when they came into town, in a contraption that was described as "Well, you know the Beverley Hillbillies -?"

B. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

1. Primary and unpublished

B. Deed books S:11, 25:361, 40:619,620, 237:172, 376:519  
in the Registry of Deeds, Henry County Courthouse, Clinton

C. Photograph circa 1970. Copy attached. Original in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers appraisal file No. 11142 at the Clinton Real Estate Office.

D. Interviews

Mrs. William E. Dody  
908 South Third  
Clinton

9 August 1977

Grew-up on the neighboring farm.

Mrs. Ruby Greenwell  
Mount Zion

8 August 1977

A long-time resident of the neighborhood: grew-



up with Warren Baker.

Prepared by

*Paul Gayfield Weed.*

Summer 1977